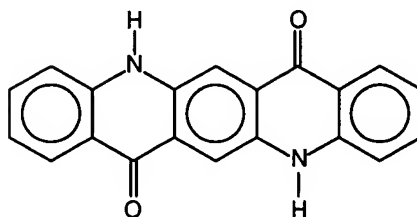


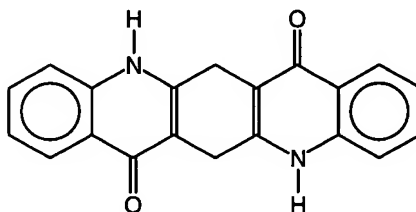
I Claim:

1. A process for preparing a beta quinacridone of formula (I)



(I)

- 5 by the oxidation of a salt of a corresponding 6,13-dihydroquinacridone of formula (III)



(III)

- 10 which comprises oxidizing the 6,13-dihydroquinacridone salt with hydrogen peroxide in the presence of a catalyst and 0.2 to 4 % by weight, based on the 6,13-dihydroquinacridone of a polyvinyl pyrrolidone.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein 0.5 to 3 % by weight based on the 6,13-dihydroquinacridone of a polyvinyl pyrrolidone is present.
- 15 3. A process of claim 1, wherein the 6,13-dihydroquinacridone salt is an alkali metal salt.
4. A process of claim 3, wherein the 6,13-dihydroquinacridone salt is a disodium or dipotassium salt.

5. A process of claim 1, wherein particulate quinacridone having an average particle size of below 0.2 micron and which is in the beta crystal phase is present during oxidation.
6. A process of claim 5, wherein a mixture of the particulate quinacridone as a nanosize quinacridone and a naphthalene sulfonic acid formaldehyde polymer is present during oxidation.
7. A process of claim 5, wherein the particulate quinacridone is prepared from sulfuric acid precipitation.
8. A process of claim 5, wherein the particulate quinacridone is present at a concentration from 0.1 to 10 percent based on 6,13-dihydroquinacridone.
9. A process of claim 1, wherein the oxidation step is carried out by combining a slurry consisting essentially of the 6,13-dihydroquinacridone salt, the catalyst, the polyvinyl pyrrolidone, a base and a liquid phase, with an aqueous solution of hydrogen peroxide.
10. A process of claim 9, wherein the liquid phase consists essentially of from about 20 to 750 parts by weight of water and from about 50 to 750 parts by weight of a lower alcohol per 100 parts by weight of 6,13-dihydroquinacridone.
11. A process of claim 10, wherein the liquid phase consists essentially of from 40 to 600 parts by weight of water and from 100 to 600 parts by weight of the alcohol per 100 parts by weight of 6,13-dihydroquinacridone.
12. A process of claim 10, wherein the alcohol is a C₁ to C₃ alcohol.
13. A process of claim 12, wherein the alcohol is methanol.
14. A process of claim 9, wherein wherein the base is an alkali metal hydroxide, which is present in an amount of from 1 to 8 moles per mole of the 6,13-dihydroquinacridone.
15. A process of claim 14, wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is present in an amount of from 2.2 to 7 moles per mole of the 6,13-dihydroquinacridone.

16. A process of claim 14, wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is sodium or potassium hydroxide, or a mixture thereof.
17. A process of claim 9, wherein the catalyst is a quinone compound.
18. A process of claim 17, wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of anthraquinone, anthraquinone monosulfonic acid and anthraquinone disulfonic acid, or a salt thereof.
19. A process of claim 18, wherein the catalyst is anthraquinone-2-sulfonic acid or anthraquinone -2,7- disulfonic acid or its sodium or potassium salts.
20. A process of claim 9, wherein the catalyst is present in an amount of from 0.005 to 0.15 times the weight of the 6,13-dihydroquinacridone.
21. A process of claim 9, wherein the oxidation step is carried out by combining a 1 to 50 percent by weight aqueous solution of hydrogen peroxide with a slurry consisting essentially of the 6,13-dihydroquinacridone, the catalyst, the base and the liquid phase.
22. A process of claim 21, wherein the aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution has a concentration of 5 to 30 weight percent of hydrogen peroxide.
23. A process of claim 9, wherein 1.1 to 5 moles of the hydrogen peroxide are combined per mole of 6,13-dihydroquinacridone.
24. A process of claim 9, wherein the aqueous solution of hydrogen peroxide is added to the slurry over a time interval of from 5 minutes to 6 hours at elevated temperature and the reaction medium is subsequently maintained, with stirring, at an elevated temperature for from 5 minutes to 4 hours to complete the oxidation and promote pigment recrystallization.
25. A process of claim 9, wherein the reaction medium is maintained at a temperature of from 50° C to reflux temperature for from 5 minutes to 2 hours.
26. A process of claim 9, wherein the oxidation step is carried out in the presence of from 0.05 to 10% by weight based on the 6,13-dihydroquinacridone of a particle growth inhibitor.

27. A process of claim 26, wherein said particle growth inhibitor is phthalimidomethyl-, imidazolyl methyl-, pyrazolyl methyl -quinacridone, quinacridone mono sulfonic acid and its salts.